

IMPROVING URBAN WATERS ROUTEMAP ANNUAL UPDATE



Scottish Water published its 'Improving Urban Waters Routemap' on 21st December 2021. The Routemap can be found [here](#) and it set out the action we will take to:

- Improve water quality (to support [Scotland's River Basin Management Plan](#))
- Increase monitoring and reporting to cover all Combined Sewer
- Significantly reduce sewer related debris in the environment
- Reduce overflow discharges from the sewer network

In this document we provide a summary of key activities to date and an assessment of progress against the routemap.

COMMITMENT	KEY ACTIONS 2022	KEY ACTIONS 2023	PROGRESS
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with SEPA 108 high priority discharges impacting water quality and causing sewage related debris (SRD) problems and published here. • 54 projects initiated to develop solutions and support delivery of all 108 high priority discharges by 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 high priority discharge projects have been delivered. • A further 61 projects are underway with solution development. • Several projects in the Water of Leith and Almond Valley due to start in early 2024. 	On Track
Improving Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified priority locations for 1,000 spill monitors with installation programmed over 2023 and 2024. • Wastewater Intelligent Network installed in 4 catchments and plan in place to extend to 12 further catchments by December 2023 covering 27.5% of Scotland's population. • Overflow spill data reported under licence published on our website with supporting narrative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 230 overflow discharge monitors installed as part of the Improving Urban Waters Routemap - plan to deliver a total of 1,000 monitors by December 2024. • 229 further discharge monitors installed (53 on overflows) through Waste Water Intelligent Network transformation programme - plan to deliver a total of 1,500 monitors by December 2024. This will create improved monitoring across 180 catchment areas. • The installs will create improved monitoring across 180 catchment areas and has already proactively prevented 40 potential choke events in four catchment areas, reducing impact on customers and environment. • 2022 overflow discharge data published March 2023 per regulatory reporting and licence requirements. Data published December 2023 for a number of discharge locations where EDMs are required per licence, following data gathering and verification. Further review and assurance work is in progress to report for all. • Through our 'Pass Forward Flow project' we are studying those overflow discharge frequencies from our wastewater treatment works. This will allow us to identify and develop a programme of improvements. • Developing our live reporting tool ahead of publishing near time overflow data in in December 2024. 	On Track
Reducing Sewage Related Debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched a Social Marketing campaign asking the people of Scotland to 'bin the wipes' to protect Scotland's natural environment 'Nature Calls' secured intent on a ban on wipes containing plastic from SG, liaison with UK Gov ongoing. • Developed a project in the River Almond catchment with representatives from Scottish Water, SEPA, Hydro Nation Chair, Local Authority, Rivers Trust and community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued our national Nature Calls campaigns and have delivered early interventions in nine 'hot spot' areas. The impact has been evaluated by an independent YouGov survey and 71% say they will think more carefully about what they flush down the toilet (up 6% from 65% Oct 2022), 43% say they will stop buying wipes (600,000 adults in Scotland). • Continue to work with key stakeholders to deliver collective change on Supporting Keep Scotland Beautiful's Upstream Battle campaign on the River Clyde. • Launched Generation H2O September 2023 to engage future customers to protect Scotland's water network and be responsible water citizens. 6,000 students have received the learning through teaching modules in schools. • Progressing River Almond Lighthouse Project using data to support predictive water quality tools. 	On Track

* This specific commitment remains ongoing and subject to engagement with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) on future recording and reporting requirements.

NATURE CALLS



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Reducing Spills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sewer network improvement projects considering surface water management with technical and planning guidance under ongoing development. • Surface Water Management policy position showcased at Developer and Consultants Forums. • Creating Water Resilient Places summit held bringing together senior leaders from SEPA, Scottish Water and Government and from Scotland's eight cities. Agreement to include a Water Resilient Places theme under the Scottish Cities Alliance climate change work. • City-scale planning of surface water has been developed under a Sustainable Growth Agreement between Scottish Water and SEPA and in partnership with Aberdeen City Council. Collaboration with local authority partners in key areas of Edinburgh and Dundee, with a view to scaling this to a city-wide level over the next 2 years. • Scottish Water, SEPA and NatureScot working to develop a green finance framework to support urban blue-green programmes of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing partnership catchment surface water management approaches in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craigleith – the Edinburgh and Lothians Drainage Partnership is supporting the planning and design for 5 priority blue-green infrastructure projects. • Dundee - delivery of Craigie Street pocket park & rain gardens. • Aberdeen - Agreement to continue partnership working on Aberdeen city-wide surface water management initiatives. • Surface Water separation or disconnection is now included in the option appraisal for all Scottish Water sewer network and flooding improvement projects. • Supporting the development of policy proposals to build a framework appropriate for future of the water industry in Scotland in response to the climate emergency. • Community focus on blockage hotspots such as Shotts and Helensburgh. 	On Track